President of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan ; at the same time offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

Please call to the attention of the President of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months.

ZIMMERMANN."

This telegram was intercepted and deciphered by the British Naval Intelligence, the head of which, Admiral Hall, set up a special Department under Mr. W. H. L. Ewart (of the British Diplomatic Service) and a staff of University dons, who organised and conducted this Department with brilliant success during the War, and developed an uncanny efficiency in the unearthing of German secrets. The contents of the telegram were quietly communicated on 26th February to the American Government, and although Wilson was rather doubtful about publishing it, fearing it might over-excite popular feeling, it was given to the Press on 28th February. It roused a great deal of indignation in the States, and strongly reinforced the popular backing for strong measures by the President.

Intercepted by Admiral Hall

On 29th February, while the Bill to arm merchantmen was before Congress, the Gunarder *Laconia* was sunk without warning, and two American women lost their lives. On 12th March, the American *S.S. Algonquin* was sunk without

More U.S.A. vessels sunk

out warning, and on the same day the Secretary of State, Mr. Lansing, issued an announcement that the American Government had decided to place an armed guard upon all American ships passing